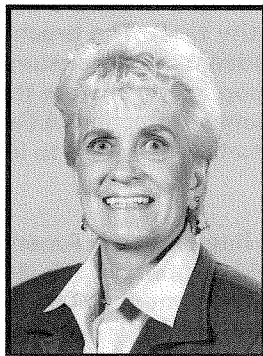


Hammerstrom's

for the people
in the 17th Senate District

Hotline



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August 23, 2004



LABOR DAY WEEKEND BRINGS CLOSE TO SUMMER SEASON With Labor Day weekend just around the corner, many Michigan residents are making plans to celebrate and bring to a close another summer season. If you haven't planned your weekend yet, I would encourage you to visit the Travel Michigan website. It offers many ideas for weekend getaways, including locations for the approximately 25 accessible lighthouses throughout the state. For water lovers, Michigan boasts over 3,200 miles of shoreline and 11,000 inland lakes and many of these are also listed on the website. Whether traveling across the state or staying home, Michigan offers a wide variety of recreational fun for the whole family. For more travel ideas, as well as a complete list of special events, please visit the Travel Michigan website at www.travel.michigan.org/events.

DID YOU KNOW? Peter J. McGuire, a New York City cabinet maker, first proposed the idea of Labor Day in 1882. Twelve years later, Labor Day was declared as an official holiday by President Grover Cleveland—a president largely known for his distaste of organized labor.

DEADLINE FOR FEDERAL DISASTER AID IS APPROACHING The Federal Emergency Management Agency declared 23 counties in Michigan, including Jackson and Washtenaw, federal disaster areas due to the amount of damage sustained during the severe storms and floods earlier this summer. The original incident period of May 20 through May 24 was amended to include the disaster-related damages that occurred through June 8. Homeowners, renters and business-owners who incurred damages during this period may be eligible to receive federal disaster aid. Assistance may include grants and low-interest loans to cover the expense of basic home and business repairs, as well as the replacement of appliances and furniture. To apply for aid, please call 1-800-621-FEMA (3362). Phone lines are open Monday through Saturday, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Before calling, please have your social security number, insurance information (including policy number), information on damages, direct deposit information, and day and evening contact information available. The deadline to apply for disaster aid is Monday, August 30, 2004.

TOP FRAUDS AND SCAMS The American Association of Retired People (AARP) has produced a brochure listing some of the most common consumer frauds and scams, including those used to commit identity theft. The brochure, "The Top Frauds and Scams," discusses seven common ploys individuals or groups use to take advantage of consumers, and offers tips on how to avoid becoming a victim of the scams. According to the AARP, two popular scams are those involving sweepstakes and foreign money offers. This brochure, along with others such as "Consumer Protection: A Guide to Your Rights and Choices," is available at no charge by calling 1-888-687-2277. For more information in regard to identity theft, please visit my website at www.senate.michigan.gov/hammerstrom.

ANNUAL BLOOD DRIVE AT MICHIGAN INTERNATIONAL SPEEDWAY The Great Lakes Region of the American Red Cross is preparing for the largest single-day blood drive in the state which will be held September 11, 2004. Michigan International Speedway (MIS), located in Brooklyn, will host the third annual "Spirit of America 400" from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. and has set a goal to receive donations of 450 units of blood. Volunteers who register for this appointment-only drive will receive a commemorative shirt, hat and pin, as well as a photo opportunity with a NASCAR Winston Cup stock car. Last year, more than 500 people donated blood, resulting in 433 units for use by patients in 70 Michigan hospitals. To register for this event, call (800) GIVE LIFE, or visit www.givelife.org and enter "MIS" for the sponsor code.

If you would like to receive future issues of Hammerstrom's Hotline via e-mail, please contact me at SenBHammerstrom@senate.michigan.gov